

CELL NOTES 31/1/11

ICE BREAKER

What has been the most memorable/difficult/joyful thing that has happened to you since Christmas?

THEME

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
Reading Gen 12 : 1 - 5

SERMON OUTLINE

- 1) How is E100 going?
- 2) This week we look at the three great Jewish patriarchs.
- 3) Impossible to find hard historical evidence for their individual lives. The details surrounding the Biblical accounts are consistent with what is known of life in the Middle East around 2000 BC.
- 3) Abraham's life was a life of great faith, with occasional lapses into fear. (Gen 12 : 10 – 20) Most famous is the occasion when he was asked to sacrifice Isaac, the son he had been promised, but then had to wait many years for that promise to be fulfilled. (Gen 22).
- 4) Abraham's **FAITH** is exhibited in vv1 & 4 of the reading. He was prepared to do what God said despite all the risks attached.
- 5) "Trusting God with your life is what faith is all about."
- 6) We all exercise faith – in our own abilities, in another person, in the value of a cause or principle, in money etc. The key question is where we put our faith.
- 7) Where is yours?
- 8) Abraham's **FEAR** is exhibited in chap. 12 :10 – 20, when he goes to Egypt, and persuades Sarai to lie about their relationship.
- 9) Despite this failure, God did not abandon Abraham, but remained with Him in the aftermath of his wrong behaviour.
- 10) The same is true for us.
- 11) Abraham's **FUTURE** was based on God's promises to him. Promises can be very significant on a human level – much more so when they are from God. The promises of vv2,3 have been fulfilled – especially in the ministry of Jesus.
- 12) Many of God's promises can be received and relied on by us all (e.g. Heb 13 : 5 – 6). At times we may have a more individual promise from the Lord, via His word or in some other way.
- 13) Receiving promises involves patience and perseverance, as fulfilment may be well in the future.
- 14) Just as we have many voices and influences in our lives, so did Abraham. He chose to listen to God.

QUESTIONS OF APPLICATION

- 1) What do you make of the definition of faith in point 5? In who, or what do you have faith? How is that expressed?
- 2) Can you think of a time when you made a bad choice/decision, but God remained with you in the aftermath?
- 3) The Bible is full of promises. How do they affect your life, and inner attitudes, in practice? Is there a promise (human or divine) that is colouring your life at the moment?
- 4) From this week's theme, is there one matter you would like the group to pray for you about?